

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02324 061133Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 231633Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6724
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 2324

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 42622, (B) LAGOS 2030

1. DCM MET WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BALEWA LAST NIGHT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION OF FMG'S ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED DATES AND TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF VISIT. ACCORDING TO BALEWA, MEA COMMITTEE HEADED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SANU AND COMPRISING BALEWA, AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MUSA AND AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKADIRI WILL BE MEETING WITH EMBOFFS TO HAMMER OUT DETAILS. HIS PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO SCHEDULE PROPOSED IN REFTEL A WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. WECOMING CEREMONY. FMG BVWIEVES DODAN BARRACKS IS BETTER VENUE FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT FOR WELCOMING CEREMONY THAN TAWAWA BALEWA SQUARE. IT IS ALSO MORE CONVENIENT, AS TWO CHIEFS OF STATE NEED ONLY WALK A FEW PACES FROM PLACE WHERE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD TO CONFERENCE ROOM FOR BILATERAL TALKS. ADEQUATE SPACE FOR PRESS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02324 061133Z

DODAN BARRACKS. FMG HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT PREFERS RECEPTION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS EVENT OR SCHEDULED SEPARATELY THAT AFTERNOON.

3. WREATH LAYING. AT SOME POINT DURING VISIT FMG WOULD LIKE PRESIDENT CARTER TO LAY A WREATH ON RECENTLY COMPLETED "CENOTAPH COMMEMORATING WAR DEAD WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO

TAFAWA BALEWA STADIUM. BALEWA SUGGESTED BRIEF STOP MORNING OF APRIL 2 ENROUTE TO AIRPORT.

4. SPEECH. WE AGREE WITH BALEWA THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO SCHEDULE SPEECH OUT OF DOORS AT 2:00 P.M. DURING PEAK OF HOT SEASON. AUDITORIUM AT NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE 300 PERSONS AND USUALLY HAS NO AIR CONDITIONING. BEST SITE IN LAGOS IN OUR VIEW AND BALEWA'S WOULD BE THE NATIONAL ARTS THEATER, AUDITORIUM AND CONFERENCE HALL, WHICH ACCOMMODATE 5,000 AND 2,000 PERSONS RESPECTIVELY. BALEWA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FMG WOULD PREFER THAT PRESIDENT GIVE HIS SPEECH BEFORE STUDENT AUDIENCE AT BAYERO UNIVERSITY (SEE REFTEL B) IN KANO. HE POINTED OUT THAT VISITING HEADS OF STATE CUSTOMARILY SPEAK AT LAGOS OR IBADAN UNIVERSITIES AND THAT FMG WOULD LIKE TO HONOR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY.

5. KANO. BALEWA SAID THAT HEAD OF STATE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY TO KANO VISIT BUT ALSO TO BALANCING DURING THE VISIT THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF TRADITIONAL RULERS (EMIRS) AND OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT. BALEWA THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SCHEDULE INCLUDE A CALL ON EMIR OF KANO AND A PROVINCIAL DURBAR (LASTING ABOUT AN HOUR), ON THE ONE HAND, AND A LUNCH WITH THE GOVERNOR AND A VISIT (WITH SPEECH) TO BAYERO UNIVERSITY ON THE OTHER HAND.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02324 061133Z

HE AGREED THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE TIME TO INCLUDE KADUNA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (REFTEL B).

6. PRESS CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH SCHEDULE IN REFTEL DOES NOT INCLUDE A PRESS CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION TO THE FAVORABLE IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. IT COULD BE SCHEDULED UPON PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM KANO OR EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE DEPARTURE.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT. WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE GETTING FULL AND OPEN COLLABORATION FROM NIGERIAN OFFICIALS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES (COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, INFORMATION) BEFORE VISIT IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. USIS HAS ALREADY MET STONE WALL BECAUSE ITS CONTACTS DO NOT KNOW VISIT SCHEDULED AND THEREFORE CANNOT DISCUSS IT. ACCORDING TO BALEWA, USUAL HOURS FOR FMG PRESS RELEASES ARE 7 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. NIGERIAN TIME (1 A.M. AND 7 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME). THEY WOULD PREFER TO RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT ONE HOUR BEFORE WASHINGTON DOES, WHICH THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE INASMUCH AS FMG IS INVITING AND USG IS ACCEPTING. AS WAS THE CASE LAST FALL, FMG WOULD LIKE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HAVE DIFFERENT TEXTS.

8. A KEY QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SHOULD BE GIVEN IN KANO OR LAGOS. WE ARE INVESTIGATING THIS QUESTION FURTHER AND WILL SUBMIT SEPTTEL. THAT MESSAGE WITLL ALSO ADDRESS QUESTION CONTAINED IN PARA 7 OF REFTTEL A REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF DIDICATING NEW CHANCERY OR VISIT TO A ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 1.

9. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT IN PARA 6D OF REFTTEL THAT TOTAL ROOM REQUIREMENT FOR NIGHT OF 28TH WILL BE 450. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE TOTAL OF 450 WILL NOT BE REACHED UNTIL THE NIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL, MARCH 31.
(B) AN INDICATION OF YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY AND TIMING OF A PRESS CONFERENCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02324 061133Z

(C) ADVICE WHETHER FMG PROPOSAL TO ANNOUNCE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT ONE HOUR IN ADVANCE OF WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE. IN ANY EVENT, WE URGE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE PRESENT CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT SERIOUSLY RETARDS OUR WORK.

(D) ADVICE ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PRE-ADVANCE AND ADVANCE TEAMS WILL WANT IN KANO (DATES, LENGTH OF STAY, NUMBERS COMING).

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